

2009

Silliman University
Divinity School

[MASTER OF DIVINITY]

Major in Christian Education (Thesis Track)

**Master of Divinity
Major in Christian Education**

First Year (33 units)

| 1st Semester | Units | 2nd Semester | Units |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| DCM 441 Leadership and Capability Building | 3 | DCM 442 Intimate and Domestic Violence as Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue | 3 |
| DCM 443 Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts | 3 | ED 16 Principles and Methods of Teaching | 3 |
| DCM 445 Contemporary Issues in Christian Education | 3 | DCM 446 Children and Youth Ministry | 3 |
| THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World | 3 | DCM 448 Family Ministries | 3 |
| DS 1 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 1 | 3 | DS 2 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2 | 3 |
| EL 33 Critical Essay Writing | 3 | | |
| Total | 18 | Total | 15 |

Second Year (15 units)

| 1st Semester | Units | 2nd Semester | Units |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| DBI 445 Wisdom Literature | 3 | DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense | 3 |
| DBI 449 Cross-cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia | 3 | | 3 |
| DCM 447 Administration and Supervision of Church Educational Ministry | 3 | | |
| DS 3 Thesis Writing | 3 | | |
| | 12 | | |

I. Introduction

Silliman University Divinity School will offer a Master of Divinity degree major in Christian Education. This two-year program is designed for those who finished a degree in Bachelor of Theology major in Pastoral Ministry. In the past, graduates of Bachelor of Theology, both from of the Silliman University Divinity School and other accredited seminaries come to enroll in the Master of Divinity program. They come back to update their degree, and especially to gain more preparation in the nurturing ministry. For some years now, these kinds of students were put in the same classes with B.Th. students. Those who were in this kind of arrangement did not find enough challenge, especially so when their intention to come back to the seminary was to focus in a particular field, specifically Christian Education. Many of these M. Div. students have expressed that they do not find challenges in this kind of set up, especially when they are asked to take the courses they have already taken.

II. Justification for the Proposal to Offer a Master of Divinity major in Christian Education

The Master of Divinity is an existing degree offered by SUDS. Offering of Christian Education as a field of specialization is not totally new because such specialized area was offered by the seminary in the past years until the mid-1970s. Due to change of emphasis in designing the curriculum, it was scrapped. The change of emphasis was influenced by the notion that everyone trained in Pastoral Ministry can also do Christian Education work.

Offering a Master of Divinity degree with major in Christian Education is only a retrieval of what has been lost for sometime. This program is offered therefore for the following reasons:

1. The church has now demanded for Christian Education graduates, but no UCCP-related seminary offers a Master degree in Christian Education. The reasons include the following:
 - a) There are no available qualified Christian Education teachers.
 - b) Those that have been trained have either retired, have died, or, are no longer based in the Philippines.
 - c) Christian education program has been neglected in the local churches.
2. Ninety percent of Church life and works involved Christian Education and Nurture but these works are neglected because -
 - a. Pastors are usually called by churches as church administrators, and not as Christian Education person.
 - b. Some pastors do the Christian Education work but they do not have the special training to do so.
 - c. Church workers will not be ordained if they focus on Christian Education.
3. The churches and conferences have Christian Education and Nurture Committee/Commission/Desk but those who serve as committee chair/CEN director are pastors who do not have special training in Christian Education.
4. Most UCCP churches have kindergarten schools. However these schools are usually

run by directors who are graduates of non-theological schools or seminary because of lack of persons who are trained as CE/Religious Education and Early Childhood teachers and directors, and who do not have the government requirement.

Note:

Students who plan to go into the teaching ministry in church-related schools need to take at least 18 units at the College of Education to be able to take the Licensure Exam for Teachers (LET) required by DepEd and CHED.

5. The UCCP has many church-related schools/institutions (like Silliman University) and these institutions offer courses in values education and Bible. However, the Divinity School could not fully respond to the needs of these institutions. Instead, graduates in pastoral ministry who are not prepared to be in the educational ministry are sent.
6. The seminary will be able to respond to the needs of the graduates of Bachelor of Theology who come back to the seminary to take the Master of Divinity degree with specialization.

III. Objectives for each level.

- During the first year the students are expected to focus on the intensive studies on advance Christian Education courses. Students will prepare their research proposals.
- In first semester of their second year, the students will begin to write their thesis project and defend it by the second semester.

IV. Viability of the program

1. Based on experience, Bachelor of Theology graduates come back to the Divinity School to pursue the degree of Master of Divinity and who were hoping to take Christian Education as their specialization.
2. All UCCP seminaries are in need of teachers in Christian Education and therefore they would welcome the Divinity School's offering of a special training on this particular field.
3. Every year, the Divinity School receive inquiries from churches and individuals about the seminary's offering of a degree or a major in Christian Education
4. The UCCP churches have kindergarten schools and therefore these churches will most likely need persons or pastors who have an intensive training in Christian Education.
5. The UCCP have church-related institutions and schools, and therefore there will always be a need for people who have a specialized training in Christian Education to teach in their schools.

V. The Program Offering

This thesis-track program requires the students to earn 48 units in order to graduate. The program will offer advance courses in Christian Education that are not offered in the Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity program for the non-B.Th. graduates. They are as follows:

| Core Courses | Units | Total Units |
|--|-------|-------------|
| <i>A. Christian Education Core Courses</i> | | 21 |
| 1. DCM 441 Leadership and Capability Building | 3 | |
| 2. DCM 442 Intimate and Domestic Violence as Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue | 3 | |
| 3. DCM 443 Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts | 3 | |
| 4. DCM 445 Contemporary Issues in Christian Education | 3 | |
| 5. DCM 446 Children and Youth Ministry | 3 | |
| 6. DCM 447 Administration of Church Educational Ministry | 3 | |
| 8. DCM 448 Family Ministries | 3 | |
| <i>B. Biblical Courses</i> | | 6 |
| 1. DBI 444 Wisdom Literature | 3 | |
| 2. DBI 449 Cross-cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia | 3 | |
| <i>C. Theology and History</i> | | 3 |
| 1. THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World | 3 | |
| <i>D. Education Courses</i> | | |
| 1. ED 16 Principles and Methods of Teaching | 3 | 3 |
| <i>E. Research Methods</i> | 6 | 6 |
| <i>F. Thesis Writing</i> | 6 | 6 |
| <i>F. English Requirement – EL 33 Critical Essay Writing</i> | 3 | 3 |
| <i>Total</i> | | 48 |

VI. Graduation Requirements:

1. Completion of the curricular requirements of 48 units, with the following breakdown: core Christian Education courses, theology and Bible - 21 + 12 units.¹ English elective, research and thesis writing will complete the remaining 15 units.
2. Cumulative QPA of at least 3.0.
3. Passed the Public Defense of Thesis which will happen between January and February during the Second Year.
4. Endorsed by the Faculty for Graduation.

¹ CHED requires 24 units of core courses only for Master of Divinity.

VII. Course Schedule

First Year (33 units)

1st Semester

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Units</i> | <i>Passing Grade</i> | <i>Pre-requisite</i> |
|-------------|--|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| DCM 441 | Leadership and Capability Building | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DCM 443 | Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DCM 445 | Contemporary Issues in Christian Education | 3 | 3.0 | |
| THE 443 | Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DS 1 | Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 1 | 3 | 3.0 | |
| EL 33 | Critical Essay Writing | 3 | 3.0 | |
| | | 18 | | |

2nd Semester

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Units</i> | <i>Passing Grade</i> | <i>Pre-requisite</i> |
|-------------|---|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| DCM 442 | Intimate and Domestic Violence as Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue | 3 | 3.0 | |
| ED 16 | Principles and Methods of Teaching | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DCM 446 | Children and Youth Ministry | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DCM 448 | Family Ministries | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DS 2 | Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2 | 3 | 3.0 | |
| | | 15 | | |

SECOND YEAR (15 units)

1st Semester

| <i>Code</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Units</i> | <i>Passing Grade</i> | <i>Pre-requisite</i> |
|-------------|---|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| DBI 445 | Wisdom Literature | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DBI 449 | Cross-cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DCM 447 | Administration and Supervision of Church Educational Ministry | 3 | 3.0 | |
| DS 3 | Thesis Writing | 3 | 3.0 | |
| | | 12 | | |

2nd Semester

| <i>Description</i> | <i>Units</i> | <i>Passing Grade</i> | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--|
| DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense | 3 | 3.0 | |
| | 3 | | |

VIII. Faculty

A member of the faculty has an undergraduate degree with major in Christian Education. A faculty member of the Divinity School will start her doctoral program in Christian Education (Th.D) in 2007 and is expected to finish in 2011. While waiting for this faculty member to finish her program, the Divinity School will seek to invite visiting professors who are qualified to teach Christian Education.

IX. Course Descriptions

First Year

| 1st Semester | 2nd Semester |
|--|---|
| <p><i>DCM 441 – Leadership and Capability Building</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is a course in exploring the basic principles, approaches, styles, methods of leadership. Such theories should help the students to develop the capability, skills and competence in pastoral leadership in aspects of Church life and ministry.</p> | <p><i>DCM 442 Intimate and Domestic Violence as a Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course seeks to investigate the phenomenon of intimate and domestic violence as a theological, ethical, social, and pastoral issue. The class will use interdisciplinary resources. Students will also be challenged to be in touch with their own personal baggage on the issue of power and attitude towards violence, as well as their complicity to it.</p> |
| <p><i>DCM 443 Teaching the Bible in Racially and Culturally Diverse Contexts</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course is designed to help students explore the principles of teaching the Bible and leading Bible studies effectively in multicultural and multiracial contexts. As an advance course, students are also challenged to create a Bible Study series that consider diversity of participants and demonstrate them in actual or simulated class contexts. This will enable the students to gain competence in the use of various ways in organizing and leading Bible study groups in the context not only of the local church, but also of diverse racially and culturally diverse settings.</p> | <p><i>ED 16 Principles and Methods of Teaching</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course introduces prospective teachers to the nature of teaching. It deals specifically with the principles of effective instruction and the concomitant process involved; instructional planning and actual teaching.</p> |

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| <p><i>DCM 445 Contemporary Issues in Christian Education</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is a seminar course designed to raise in the student an awareness of various issues in Christian Education and reflect on their implications in planning the programs for Christian Education and Nurture of the Church.</p> | <p><i>DCM 446 Children and Youth Ministry</i> 3 units</p> <p>How does the church minister to youth and children? Are they allowed to participate in its ministry? These are some basic questions this course will explore. This course will examine the role of children and youth in the church ministry. Students will explore a variety of programs and possibilities for children's ministry. Special attention will be given to programs that nurture children and youth to develop a faith manifest in a spirituality of honesty, justice and peace.</p> |
| <p><i>THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World</i> 3 units</p> <p>This ecumenics course is designed to help students examine the origins, development, content, and critical issues of various forms of ecofeminisms and earth spiritualities around the world. Engagement with significant oral, written, and visual texts is an important aspect of the course. The class will give particular attention to Asian and Filipino indigenous earth spiritualities.</p> | <p><i>DCM 448 Family Ministries</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course will require the student to examine the changing structures and nature of families in contemporary times. Students will explore the challenges that confront the families of the 21st century and discover different approaches of ministering to and empowerment of families for witness and service.</p> |
| <p><i>DS 1 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing</i> 3 units</p> <p>The first week of the first semester will be an orientation to thesis writing. On August 15 of the first semester during the Senior Year, the candidate must submit to the Academic Affairs Committee a thesis on a topic in the area of concentration that is approved by the faculty member who accepts the task as the first reader of the thesis. On September 15 of the same semester, the student must submit to the two readers an outline of the proposed thesis and a preliminary annotated bibliography.</p> | <p><i>DS 2 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is a course that makes students apply their theories in research methods. An expected output from the student in this class is a thesis proposal that includes an abstract of the research project, thesis statement, objectives, methodology, an outline of the project and an annotated bibliography or a review of literature. Students will schedule a faculty hearing for one's thesis proposal and must have it approved within the semester.</p> |

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| <p><i>EL 33 Critical Essay Writing</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is an upper level advance writing course. Designed as a reading-writing workshop, it will immerse the student writers through reading in a wide variety of topics and forms of writing, thereby stimulating them to write on various personal essay, commentaries, critics, descriptive narratives, and other writing interest of the student.</p> | |
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Second Year

1st Semester

2nd Semester

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>DBI 445 Wisdom Literature</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course is a survey of the five “wisdom” books in the Hebrew Bible and in the apocrypha namely, Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth, Ben Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon. In this course, the students will a) examine the role of the Ancient Near East institutions and their role in the emergence of the wisdom literature, b) identify the different genres in the biblical wisdom literature, c) the significance of the wisdom literature in the concerns for gender justice, and d) the significance of wisdom literature in contemporary human being’s search for meaning in life.</p> | <p><i>DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense</i> - 3 units</p> <p>This is the second part of the course on thesis writing. Thesis hearings will be scheduled on the last two weeks of January. Two copies of the bound thesis will be submitted to the Office of the Dean on March 1.</p> |
| <p><i>DBI 449 Cross-Cultural Reading of the Sacred Text in Asia</i> 3 units</p> <p>As an introductory course, this is designed to help students explore and appreciate the common themes addressed by the Sacred Scriptures of religions in Asia. Selected readings from the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Bible will be read alongside the Tao Te Ching, Qur’an, Analects, Dhammapada, and the Vedas. A good background in Asian Religions is required.</p> | |

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| <p><i>DCM 447 Administration of Church Educational Ministry</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is a course designed to equip students to explore and learn the principles and techniques of organizing, administering and supervising, monitoring and evaluating the church education and nurture program. A hands-on experience is an essential component of this course.</p> | |
| <p><i>DS 3 Thesis Writing</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is mostly an independent work by the student. A periodic consultation between the advisor and the student may be scheduled. The student is required to have an approved thesis proposal in order to get enrolled in this course.</p> | |

List of Electives:

DCM 450 - Campus Ministry

This course aims to enable the participants of the class to plan and formulate nurture programs that help students and members of the academic communities find meaning in their campus life. It also seeks to challenge them to envision their practice of a profession or a career as a vocation of making the world a beautiful place to live in for all people.

DCM 451- Youth Ministry

This course focuses on the fundamental understanding of the basic nature, characteristics, needs and interests of the young people in the church and community. It seeks to empower the students to create programs relevant to the youth for their witness and service .